AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Cancel)

2. (Re-presented - formerly dependent claim #2- Currently amended): An orientation division type liquid crystal display device comprising:

a pixel electrode substrate including pixel electrodes, ~~active elements~~ thin film transistors, color filters and a first alignment layer covering said pixel electrodes, said ~~active elements~~ thin film transistors and said color filters;

an opposing substrate including a common electrode and a second alignment layer covering said common electrode and opposing to said alignment layer of said pixel electrode substrate;

a liquid crystal layer disposed between said first and second alignment layers;

wiring patterns related to said ~~active elements~~ thin film transistors of said pixel electrode substrate and arranged around said pixel electrodes;

protrusions protruding from a surface of said pixel electrodes toward said common electrode and extending along said wiring patterns to form slopes,

said liquid crystal layer being controlled such that,

in an initial orientation of said liquid crystal layer,

orientation of liquid crystal molecules of said liquid

crystal layer is divided into a plurality of orientations by

said slopes; [[and]]

an underlying layer

of said pixel electrodes extends such that an apex portion

of said protrusions protrude from said surface of said

pixel electrodes toward the side of said common electrode

and a black matrix layer ~~is formed~~ below said underlying

layer [[to]] at a thickness equal to a ~~distance~~ thickness with which said black matrix layer

protrudes from a surface of said color filter corresponding

to said pixel electrode, and

a thickness of said liquid crystal layer between said pixel electrode and said common electrodes is substantially the same such that a first gap at edge portions of said pixel electrode becomes substantially the same as a second gap at the center portion thereof.

3. (Re-presented - formerly dependent claim #3-Currently amended): An orientation

division type liquid crystal display device comprising:

a pixel electrode substrate including pixel

electrodes, ~~active elements~~ thin film transistors, color filters and a first

alignment layer covering said pixel electrodes, said ~~active~~

~~elements~~ thin film transistors and said color filters;

an opposing substrate including a common electrode and a second alignment layer covering said common electrode and opposing to said alignment layer of said pixel electrode substrate;

a liquid crystal layer disposed between said first and second alignment layers;

wiring patterns related to said active elements of said pixel electrode substrate and arranged around said pixel electrodes;

protrusions protruding from a surface of said pixel electrodes toward said common electrode and extending along said wiring patterns to form slopes,

said liquid crystal layer being controlled such that, in an initial orientation of said liquid crystal layer, orientation of liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer is divided into a plurality of orientations by said slopes; [[and]]

an underlying layer of said pixel electrodes extends such that an apex portion of said protrusions protrude from said surfaces of said pixel electrodes toward the side of said common electrode and, below said underlying layer, edge portions of adjacent ones of said color filters are overlapped such that said overlapped edge portions have a thickness equal to a ~~distance~~

thickness with which said overlapped edge portion protrudes from a surface of said color filters, and

a thickness of said liquid crystal layer between said pixel electrode and said common electrodes is substantially the same such that a first gap at edge portions of said pixel electrode becomes substantially the same as a second gap at the center portion thereof.

4. (Currently amended): An orientation division type liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim [[1]]2, wherein a tilting angle θ of said slope represented by

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} (H/L)$$

where H is height of said slope and L is length of said slope in a horizontal direction, is 11° or more and a gap ratio (G_1/G_2) of a first cell gap G_1 between said opposing substrate and the highest portion of said protrusion to a second cell gap G_2 between said opposing substrate and other portions of said surface of said pixel electrode than said protrusion is in a range from 2/10 to 9/10.

Claim 5-7 (Cancel)

8. (Currently amended): An orientation division type liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim [[1]]2, wherein said first and second alignment layers are vertical alignment layers and liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer have a

negative dielectric anisotropy such that the molecules are oriented vertically toward said slopes.

9. **(Currently amended):** An orientation division type liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim [[1]]2, wherein an electrode opening portion is formed in said common electrode of said opposing substrate corresponding to said pixel electrodes.

10. **(Currently amended):** An orientation division type liquid crystal display device as claimed in claim [[1]]2, wherein a slope portion protruding toward said pixel electrode is formed on said common electrode of said opposing substrate correspondingly to said pixel electrodes.

Claim 11-12 (Cancel)

13. **(Currently amended):** A method for fabricating said orientation division type liquid crystal display device claimed in claim [[1]]2, comprising the steps of:

forming a step portion protruding from a surface of said color filters corresponding to said pixel electrodes toward the side of said common electrode on said wiring patterns;

forming said protrusions by covering said color filters and said step portions with a common insulating film; and

forming said pixel electrodes on said insulating layer,

said step portions being formed by forming said color filter films such that edge portions of adjacent ones of said color filter films are overlapped.

Claims 14-15 (Cancel)